

In addition, Harold contributes to and advocates on behalf of a number of charitable causes including medical research, education and the Arts. He believes in the power to change the world for the better and has devoted himself to helping provide opportunity to others less fortunate than himself. Indeed, Harold has graciously helped to give hope to many facing all kinds of struggles, to give back to a world that he feels has provided him with exceptional opportunities. I am honored to call Harold Snyder my good friend.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in recognizing the tremendous accomplishments of Harold Snyder and to wish him a Happy 85th Birthday.

A TRIBUTE TO DIXON OSBURN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, for 14 years, Dixon Osburn has been the Executive Director of the Service Members Legal Defense Network, an extremely effective and principled organization that has fought against the unfair discrimination against gay, lesbian and bisexual people in the U.S. armed services. It is hard to combine passion and common sense in a political cause—people who feel strongly often have an understandable difficulty in controlling their strong feelings to the point where they can follow the most rational strategies, and serving as the head of an organization exacerbates this, since the head of such a group is required to preach thoughtfulness to people who are—often justifiably—far too angry to want to think about things.

Dixon Osburn as Executive Director of SLDN performed this extremely difficult task very, very well. No one ever doubted the depth of his commitment to the cause of fairness for LGBT service members, and no one could fault the analytical discipline he brought to the job. I believe that we will some day in the near future abolish this unfair “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, which discriminates against individuals and deprives our military of personnel who would perform useful services at a time when we need that. When we do reach that goal, the important work that Dixon Osburn has done over these past 14 years will deserve a great deal of the credit.

INTRODUCTION OF QATARI-AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP DAY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, today, I am pleased to introduce a bill congratulating Qatar on the occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day. On Monday, May 14, 2007, the United States Embassy in Doha, Qatar will observe Qatar-American Friendship Day. Over the recent years, Qatar has become an important ally of the United States. It is a major defense ally in the Middle East, with Qatari and American forces both benefitting from close cooperation.

I first visited Doha, Qatar in 1999 for the historic municipal elections where women were first granted the right to vote. It is important to note that Qatari women have always enjoyed the same political rights as men. I am most impressed by the work of His Highness the Emir, Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani and Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Nasser al-Misnad and their commitment to the education of the young women and men of the Middle East. With their vision, Education City Qatar now hosts five major American universities, including Virginia Commonwealth University of the Arts in Qatar, Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar, Texas A&M University at Qatar, Carnegie Mellon University in Qatar, and Georgetown University School of Foreign Service in Qatar.

I would like to highlight one of those programs, the Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar. Nearly 10 years ago, Qatar, the Qatar Foundation, the people of Qatar, and the leadership of Weill Cornell Medical College entered into a partnership to establish a branch in Doha, Qatar—the first American medical school to succeed at such an endeavor.

The Weill Cornell Medical College in Qatar (WCMC-Q) celebrated its official opening on October 12, 2003 and will soon be celebrating its first graduating class. WCMC-Q aims to further Cornell University’s commitment to education, research, patient care and the advancement of the art and science of medicine while supporting the Qatar Foundation’s efforts to serve the local community. The College offers a complete medical education, leading to a Cornell University Doctor of Medicine (M.D.) degree, with teaching by Cornell faculty. It is the first American university to offer its M.D. degree overseas, and the first higher education institution in Qatar to be co-educational. Prospective students will be subject to the same entrance requirements as in the United States, with no geographical restrictions, and will be the first school of medicine established by an American university to award the same degree abroad that it bestows upon students in the U.S. While the State of Qatar underwrites the educational costs of Qatari students, it also offers a loan forgiveness program for foreign students if they commit to practicing medicine in Qatar for a specified period after graduation. Since 70 percent of the inaugural class are women for the Pre-medical Program, WCMC-Q is already demonstrating its ability to have an extraordinary impact in a region with few higher education options for women.

In addition to providing a superb medical education, WCMC-Q serves as a model for strong partnership and cultural understanding in the Middle East. It has served as an anchor that in turn has inspired other leading institutions of higher education, that I mentioned previously, to establish similar programs in Education City.

The leadership and the people of Qatar have clearly demonstrated their commitment to putting education and tolerance above hate and misunderstanding, one that fosters mutual respect, understanding, and peace in a very real and practical application. I am pleased to congratulate Qatar on the special occasion of Qatari-American Friendship Day and hope that our nations continue our long-lasting friendship into the future as we both strive for freedom and peace throughout the world.

HONORING DR. ZUHAIR MUNIR OF DAVIS, CALIFORNIA RECIPIENT OF THE UC DAVIS PRIZE FOR UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING AND SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENT

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dr. Zuhair Munir, the 2007 recipient of the UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. This prize has been awarded annually since 1986 to recognize scholars who are successful not just in their research, but convey their excitement and love of scholarship to students at the university. Dr. Munir has been a leader in the field of materials science for many years, conducting research in areas which have yielded remarkable technological advances, but his hallmark at UC Davis has always been as a professor who cares deeply for students throughout their studies.

Dr. Munir was born in Baghdad, Iraq and immigrated to the United States as a teenager. He earned 3 degrees from the University of California, Berkeley: his bachelor’s degree in 1956, a masters in 1958 and then his doctorate in 1963. He joined the professorial staff at UC Davis in 1972, and has worked there ever since. In 2000 he was appointed Dean of the College of Engineering and he served there until 2002. In 2003, he was promoted to Distinguished Professor in the College.

Throughout his career, Dr. Munir has worked on the cutting edge of materials science, working to understand the properties of various materials and the ways they can interact and transform under the right conditions. This has included work studying the effects of electrical fields on crystals, and as an innovator in the field of combustion synthesis.

His proficiency as a professor and mentor have long distinguished Dr. Munir, and evaluations submitted by students consistently rave that he is among the best and most engaging of their professors. Throughout his career, he has made a point of encouraging students to venture beyond his lectures and come work in the laboratory so that they can gain a better perspective on the practice of science. By encouraging students to explore problems for themselves rather than simply providing the answers, Dr. Munir has inspired generations of students to pursue in-depth study of materials science and chemical engineering, and pursue work in related fields.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is appropriate at this time that we thank Dr. Munir for his years of exemplary work as a scholar and educator, and congratulate him on receiving this award. His commitment to educating young students has been unwavering, and he deserves our thanks.

MINING LAW REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 10, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, 135 years to the day after President Ulysses S. Grant